

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Contact:**

Ryan Duffy, (850) 487-8148

**Florida House of Representatives Approves Tax Relief Package  
to Benefit Florida Families and Businesses**

*~Passes August back to school sales tax holiday~*

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – As part of continuing efforts to help improve Florida’s business climate and reduce the tax burden on Floridians, the Florida House of Representatives today approved a tax incentive package that will provide relief to families and businesses across Florida.

“While government cannot create private sector jobs, it can play an important role in promoting job growth and economic development through timely and targeted tax incentives,” said House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park). “These important tax incentives will help to improve our overall business climate and help make Florida a global destination for businesses.”

“As Florida’s economy continues to rebound, the best thing Florida lawmakers can do is to allow private sector job creators and Florida families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars,” said House Finance & Tax Committee Chairman Steve Precourt (R-Orlando). “I am proud of the Florida House for supporting Governor Scott’s job creation agenda as well as important tax relief measures sponsored by House members and look forward to seeing these important bills become law.”

House Bill 7087 is comprised of measures related to economic development, totaling \$47 million in incentives in FY 2012-13 and \$121 million on a recurring basis. This tax package combines several of the Governor Rick Scott’s economic development proposals with bills sponsored by House members. The package includes a measure that doubles Florida’s income tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and incentivizes the growth of reliable industry jobs, such as manufacturing.

The package also includes:

- An increase in tax credits for the New Markets program;
- New or expanded sales tax exemptions for agricultural packinghouses, machinery purchased by expanding manufacturers, maintenance and repair of aircraft, and manufacture of aircraft engines and gas turbine engines;
- Modification of the Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credits and the Entertainment Industry Financial Incentive Program;
- New or increased distributions of cigarette tax revenues for biomedical research and cancer research; and

- Authorization for new enterprise zones.

In addition to approving tax incentives to promote job creation, the House also passed House Bill 737 which established a back to school sales tax holiday from August 3, 2012 to August 5, 2012. The sales tax holiday will apply to items including clothing, shoes, backpacks among other items.

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